

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A sleep positioner for maintaining an infant in a supine position, the
2 sleep positioner comprising:
3 a body region having a top surface forming loop fasteners;
4 a first support cushion and a second support cushion, the first and second
5 support cushions each having a flat bottom surface, each of the flat bottom surfaces having at
6 least one hook fastener, wherein the first and second support cushions are removably
7 positionable on the top surface of the body region to form a space therebetween to receive
8 and maintain the infant in the supine position; and
9 a support pillow extending from at least a portion of the body region including
10 a support region at least partially surrounding a pressure relief region, wherein the support
11 region is configured to support at least a portion of the head of the infant, and wherein the
12 pressure relief region is configured to receive at least a portion of the back side of the head
13 such that pressure applied to the back side of the head is reduced when lying in the supine
14 position.

1 2. The sleep positioner of claim 1, further comprising a sound component
2 to generate sounds for the infant.

1 3. The sleep positioner of claim 2, wherein the sound component
2 generates a sound simulating a heartbeat.

1 4. The sleep positioner of claim 2, wherein the sound component further
2 includes a timer, the sound component to stop generating the sounds upon the expiration of
3 the timer.

1 5. The sleep positioner of claim 2, wherein the sound component is at
2 least partially located inside a cavity defined by the first support cushion and wherein the
3 sound component includes an activation mechanism to activate the sound component, the
4 sound component activated by depressing a region of the first support cushion located above
5 the activation mechanism.

1 6. The sleep positioner of claim 5, wherein the first support cushion
2 comprises a removable cover covering the sound component, wherein removal of the
3 removable cover exposes the sound component.

- 1 7. The sleep positioner of claim 1, further comprising a vibrator
2 component at least partially enclosed by the first support cushion.
- 1 8. The sleep positioner of claim 1, further comprising a recordable sound
2 component including a record mechanism to record a voice and a playback mechanism to
3 playback the recorded voice.
- 1 9. The sleep positioner of claim 8, wherein the recordable sound
2 component further includes a detection mechanism to detect a sound made by the infant and
3 to activate the playback mechanism upon detection of the sound.
- 1 10. The sleep positioner of claim 8, wherein the recordable sound
2 component is located in a cavity defined by the first support cushion.
- 1 11. The sleep positioner of claim 1, further comprising a microphone to
2 capture sounds made by the infant and to transmit the sounds to an external receiver.
- 1 12. The sleep positioner of claim 11, wherein the microphone is located at
2 least partially within the support pillow.
- 1 13. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the first support cushion has
2 an arcuate upper surface.
- 3 14. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the first support cushion
4 includes a pocket to hold a pacifier.
- 1 15. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the support region comprises
2 a gel insert.
- 1 16. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the support region comprises
2 a shape retaining material that retains at least a portion of a shape of the infant's head.
- 1 17. The sleep positioner of claim 33, wherein the shape retaining material
2 comprises a viscoelastic material.
- 1 18. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the
2 support pillow is inflatable.

1 19. The sleep positioner of claim 1, further comprising a wedge coupled
2 with at least a portion of the bottom surface of the body region and a bottom surface of the
3 support pillow, the wedge having an inclined surface for positioning the body of the infant at
4 an inclined angle.

1 20. The sleep positioner of claim 19, wherein the wedge comprises a gel
2 material.

1 21. The sleep positioner of claim 19, wherein the wedge comprises a
2 viscoelastic material.

1 22. The sleep positioner of claim 19, wherein the wedge is inflatable.

1 23. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the body region has an outer
2 periphery generally having a rectangular geometry.

1 24. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the body region comprises at
2 least one of a quilted material, a gel insert, a viscoelastic material, an inflatable material, a
3 temperature regulating material, and a scented material.

1 25. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein a bottom surface of the body
2 region is a waterproof material.

1 26. The sleep positioner of claim 25, wherein the waterproof material is
2 vinyl.

1 27. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the first support cushion has a
2 length in the range from about 6 inches to about 8 inches and a width in the range from about
3 2 inches to about 4 inches.

1 28. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the support pillow further
2 includes an arcuate flange disposed on the support region, the arcuate flange configured to
3 maintain the head of the infant on the support pillow.

1 29. The sleep positioner of claim 28, wherein the arcuate flange is padded.

1 30. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the pressure relief region
2 comprises a recessed portion in the support pillow.

1 31. The sleep positioner of claim 30, wherein the recessed portion
2 comprises an aperture extending through the sleep pillow.

1 32. The sleep positioner of claim 30, wherein the recessed portion has a
2 cross-sectional shape that is selected from a group consisting of a circle, an oval, an ellipse
3 and combinations thereof.

1 33. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the pressure relief region is
2 less resilient than the support region.

1 34. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein the support pillow has an
2 outer periphery consisting of one of a circular geometry, a semicircular geometry, and a
3 rectangular geometry.

1 35. The sleep positioner of claim 1, wherein a width of the body region is
2 larger than a width of the support pillow.

1 36. A sleep positioner for maintaining an infant in a supine position, the
2 sleep positioner comprising:

3 a body region having a top surface forming loop fasteners;

4 a first support cushion disposed on the top surface of the body region;

5 a second support cushion having a flat bottom surface and an arcuate upper
6 surface, the flat bottom surface having at least one hook fastener to removably position the
7 second support cushion on the top surface of the body region so that a space is defined
8 between the first support cushion and the second support cushion, the space operable to
9 receive and maintain the infant in the supine position;

10 a sound component positioned at least partially inside one of the first support
11 cushion and the second support cushion; and

12 a support pillow, extending from at least a portion of the body region,
13 including a support region at least partially surrounding a pressure relief region and a padded
14 member disposed about a periphery of the support region, wherein the support region is
15 configured to support at least a portion of the head of the infant, and wherein the pressure
16 relief region is configured to receive a portion of the back side of the head such that pressure
17 applied to the back side of the head is reduced when lying in the supine position.

1 37. The sleep positioner of claim 36, wherein the sound component
2 generates a sound simulating a heartbeat.

1 38. The sleep positioner of claim 36, wherein the sound component further
2 includes a timer, the sound component to stop generating sounds upon the expiration of the
3 timer.

1 39. The sleep positioner of claim 36, wherein the first support cushion has
2 a flat bottom surface having at least one hook fastener to removably position the first support
3 cushion on the body region.

1 40. The sleep positioner of claim 36, wherein the support pillow further
2 includes a microphone component to capture sounds made by the infant and to transmit the
3 sounds to an external receiver.

1 41. A method for maintaining an infant in a supine position, the method
2 comprising:

3 providing a sleep positioner comprising a body region having a top surface
4 forming loop fasteners, first and second support cushions each having a flat bottom surface
5 including at least one hook fastener to removably position the first and second support
6 cushions on the top surface of the body region, and a support pillow having a support region
7 at least partially surrounding a pressure relief region, wherein the support region is generally
8 flat and the pressure relief region is generally flush with or recessed relative to the support
9 region; and

10 placing an infant in a supine position in a space formed between the first
11 support cushion and the second support cushion, with the infant's head resting on the support
12 region, and with at least a portion of the infant's head being disposed over the pressure relief
13 region such that pressure applied to the back side of the head is reduced;

14 adjusting at least one of the first support cushion and the second support
15 cushion to fit against a side of the infant.

1 42. The method of claim 41, further comprising providing a sound
2 component to generate sounds for the infant.

1 43. The method of claim 41, further comprising providing a microphone
2 component to record sounds made by the infant and to transmit the sounds to an external
3 receiver.